

Late Judean Ministry—Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles (Tishri [October] 32)

John 7:11–31

- 11 So the Jewish leaders were looking for him at the feast, asking, “Where is he?”
- 12 There was a lot of grumbling about him among the crowds. Some were saying, “He is a good man,” but others, “He deceives the common people.”
- 13 However, no one spoke openly about him for fear of the Jewish leaders.
- 14 When the feast was half over, Jesus went up to the temple courts and began to teach.
- 15 Then the Jewish leaders were astonished and said, “How does this man know so much when he has never had formal instruction?”
- 16 So Jesus replied, “My teaching is not from me, but from the one who sent me.
- 17 If anyone wants to do God’s will, he will know about my teaching, whether it is from God or whether I speak from my own authority.
- 18 The person who speaks on his own authority desires to receive honor for himself; the one who desires the honor of the one who sent him is a man of integrity, and there is no unrighteousness in him.
- 19 Hasn’t Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law! Why do you want to kill me?”
- 20 The crowd answered, “You’re possessed by a demon! Who is trying to kill you?”
- 21 Jesus replied, “I performed one miracle and you are all amazed.
- 22 However, because Moses gave you the practice of circumcision (not that it came from Moses, but from the forefathers), you circumcise a male child on the Sabbath.
- 23 But if a male child is circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses is not broken, why are you angry with me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath?
- 24 Do not judge according to external appearance, but judge with proper judgment.”
- 25 Then some of the residents of Jerusalem began to say, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?”
- 26 Yet here he is, speaking publicly, and they are saying nothing to him. Do the rulers really know that this man is the Christ?
- 27 But we know where this man comes from. Whenever the Christ comes, no one will know where he comes from.”
- 28 Then Jesus, while teaching in the temple courts, cried out, “You both know me and know where I come from! And I have not come on my own initiative, but the one who sent me is true. You do not know him,
- 29 but I know him, because I have come from him and he sent me.”
- 30 So then they tried to seize Jesus, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time had not yet come.
- 31 Yet many of the crowd believed in him and said, “Whenever the Christ comes, he won’t perform more miraculous signs than this man did, will he?”

Late Judean Ministry—Frustrated Attempt to Arrest Jesus (Tishri [October] 32)

John 7:32–52

- 32 The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things about Jesus, so the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to arrest him.
- 33 Then Jesus said, “I will be with you for only a little while longer, and then I am going to the one who sent me.
- 34 You will look for me but will not find me, and where I am you cannot come.”
- 35 Then the Jewish leaders said to one another, “Where is he going to go that we cannot find him? He is not going to go to the Jewish people dispersed among the Greeks and teach the Greeks, is he?”
- 36 What did he mean by saying, ‘You will look for me but will not find me, and where I am you cannot come?’”
- 37 On the last day of the feast, the greatest day, Jesus stood up and shouted out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me, and
- 38 let the one who believes in me drink. Just as the scripture says, ‘From within him will flow rivers of living water.’” [cf. [Isa 55:1](#)]
- 39 (Now he said this about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive, for the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.)
- 40 When they heard these words, some of the crowd began to say, “This really is the Prophet!”
- 41 Others said, “This is the Christ!” But still others said, “No, for the Christ doesn’t come from Galilee, does he?”
- 42 Don’t the scriptures say that the Christ is *a descendant of David* and *comes from Bethlehem*, the village where David lived?” [cf. [2 Sam 7:12–16](#); [Ps 89:3–4, 35–37](#); [Isa 9:7](#); [11:1](#); [55:3](#); [Mic 5:2](#)]
- 43 So there was a division in the crowd because of Jesus.
- 44 Some of them were wanting to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.
- 45 Then the officers returned to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why didn’t you bring him back with you?”
- 46 The officers replied, “No one ever spoke like this man!”
- 47 Then the Pharisees answered, “You haven’t been deceived too, have you?”
- 48 None of the rulers or the Pharisees have believed in him, have they?”
- 49 But this rabble who do not know the law are accursed!”
- 50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before and who was one of the rulers, said, [cf. [John 3:1–21](#)]

51 “Our law doesn’t condemn a man unless it first hears from him and learns what he is doing, does it?”

52 They replied, “You aren’t from Galilee too, are you? Investigate carefully and you will see that no prophet comes from Galilee!”

Late Judean Ministry—A Woman Caught in Adultery (Tishri [October] 32)

John 7:53–8:11

7:53 [[And each one departed to his own house.

8:1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Early in the morning he came to the temple courts again. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them.

3 The experts in the law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. They made her stand in front of them

4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of adultery.

5 In the law *Moses commanded us to stone to death* such women. What then do you say?” [cf. [Lev 20:10](#); [Deut 22:22–24](#)]

6 (Now they were asking this in an attempt to trap him, so that they could bring charges against him.) Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger.

7 When they persisted in asking him, he stood up straight and replied, “Whoever among you is guiltless may be the first to throw a stone at her.”

8 Then he bent over again and wrote on the ground.

9 Now when they heard this, they began to drift away one at a time, starting with the older ones, until Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

10 Jesus stood up straight and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?”

11 She replied, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you either. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”]]

Late Judean Ministry—The Light of the World (Tishri [October] 32)

John 8:12–20

12 Then Jesus spoke out again, “I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

13 So the Pharisees objected, “You testify about yourself; your testimony is not true!”

14 Jesus answered, “Even if I testify about myself, my testimony is true, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you people do not know where I came from or where I am going.

15 You people judge by outward appearances; I do not judge anyone.

16 But if I judge, my evaluation is accurate, because I am not alone when I judge, but I and the Father who sent me do so together.

17 It is written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. [cf. [Deut 17:6](#); [19:15](#)]

18 I testify about myself and the Father who sent me testifies about me.”

19 Then they began asking him, “Who is your father?” Jesus answered, “You do not know either me or my Father. If you knew me you would know my Father too.”

20 (Jesus spoke these words near the offering box while he was teaching in the temple courts. No one seized him because his time had not yet come.)

Late Judean Ministry—Jesus Predicts His Departure (Tishri [October] 32)

John 8:21–59

21 Then Jesus said to them again, “I am going away, and you will look for me but will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come.”

22 So the Jewish leaders began to say, “Perhaps he is going to kill himself, because he says, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’”

23 Jesus replied, “You people are from below; I am from above. You people are from this world; I am not from this world.

24 Thus I told you that you will die in your sins. For unless you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.”

25 So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus replied, “What I have told you from the beginning.

26 I have many things to say and to judge about you, but the Father who sent me is truthful, and the things I have heard from him I speak to the world.”

27 (They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.)

28 Then Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak just what the Father taught me.

29 And the one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do those things that please him.”

30 While he was saying these things, many people believed in him.

31 Then Jesus said to those Judeans who had believed him, “If you continue to follow my teaching, you are really my disciples

32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

33 “We are descendants of Abraham,” they replied, “and have never been anyone’s slaves! How can you say, ‘You will become free?’”

34 Jesus answered them, “I tell you the solemn truth, everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin.

35 The slave does not remain in the family forever, but the son remains forever.

36 So if the son sets you free, you will be really free.

37 I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. But you want to kill me, because my teaching makes no progress among you.

38 I am telling you the things I have seen while with the Father; as for you, practice the things you have heard from the Father!”

39 They answered him, “Abraham is our father!” Jesus replied, “If you are Abraham’s children, you would be doing the deeds of Abraham. [cf. [Gal 3:6–7](#); [Rom 9:6–8](#)]

40 But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth I heard from God. Abraham did not do this!

41 You people are doing the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Jesus, “We were not born as a result of immorality! We have only one Father, God himself.”

42 Jesus replied, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come from God and am now here. I have not come on my own initiative, but he sent me.

43 Why don’t you understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot accept my teaching.

44 You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not uphold the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 But because I am telling you the truth, you do not believe me.

46 Who among you can prove me guilty of any sin? If I am telling you the truth, why don’t you believe me?

47 The one who belongs to God listens and responds to God’s words. You don’t listen and respond, because you don’t belong to God.”

48 The Judeans replied, “Aren’t we correct in saying that you are a Samaritan and are possessed by a demon?”

49 Jesus answered, “I am not possessed by a demon, but I honor my Father—and yet you dishonor me.

50 I am not trying to get praise for myself. There is one who demands it, and he also judges.

51 I tell you the solemn truth, if anyone obeys my teaching, he will never see death.”

52 Then the Judeans responded, “Now we know you’re possessed by a demon! Both Abraham and the prophets died, and yet you say, ‘If anyone obeys my teaching, he will never experience death.’

53 You aren’t greater than our father Abraham who died, are you? And the prophets died too! Who do you claim to be?”

54 Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory is worthless. The one who glorifies me is my Father, about whom you people say, ‘He is our God.’

55 Yet you do not know him, but I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I obey his teaching.

56 Your father Abraham was overjoyed to see my day, and he saw it and was glad.”

57 Then the Judeans replied, “You are not yet fifty years old! Have you seen Abraham?”

58 Jesus said to them, “I tell you the solemn truth, before Abraham came into existence, I am!”

59 Then they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out from the temple area.

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Textual Notes

- 1) The story of the woman caught in adultery is separated from the rest of the text by double brackets. This is done to visually indicate doubt on the part of most scholars that this story is part of John’s original gospel manuscript. For a good discussion of this issue, see Andreas J. Kostenberger, *John: Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004), pp. 245–249.¹

¹ For a more thorough treatment of recent research, see Chris Keith, “Recent and Previous Research on the *Pericope Adulterae* (John 7.53–8.11),” *Currents in Biblical Research* 6.3 (2008), 377–404. The Bibliography section of the article is excellent.